

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Overview

The Manchester School of Technology was built in 1982 with 100% state funds (\$7,484,000). It is the largest career and technical educational stand-alone center in the state. MST is also the most versatile educational institution in the Manchester School District. Its primary mission is to serve as the regional career and technical center for high school students from the communities of Goffstown, Londonderry and Manchester, and soon to be, the newly built Bedford High School. Secondly, MST offers many services to adults from the Greater Manchester area. MST also houses a successful alternative education program for 90 students deemed of high-risk for dropping out of school. Their schedule combines academic classes with the Career and Technical Education program of MST.

For our young adult clients:

- Nineteen programs for high school juniors and seniors (see attached).
- Current enrollment – 1050 students: 709 from the Manchester school district, 248 from the sending districts and private schools, and 93 from the PASS and 60 ombudsman program.
- 33% of the students are on an IEP and 44% of the students are educationally disadvantaged, on 504 plans or ESOL.
- Last year's graduates, 68% are going on to higher education, 31% entering the world of work, and 1% joining the military.
- Over 86% of MST graduates find placement (higher education or work) in an area related to their career and technical education program.
- Forty-seven staff – 26 teachers, 2 specialists for special populations, 1 Project Lead the Way Facilitator, 7 educational assistants, 3 administrative assistants, 3 PASS Program teachers, 1 PASS Program educational Assistant, 1 PASS Program Director, 1 assistant principal and 1 principal.
- The school philosophy is “learning by doing” or contextual education.
- The school atmosphere is different than a traditional high school. We are a school of choice. Students enroll in a program they are interested in for a career. We have three, 100 minute block session which students come for one block a day. Students earn 2 credits per year.
- There is a small student-teacher ratio for safe, individualized learning.
- Real-world learning opportunities, such as cooperative education, internships, clinical experiences, apprenticeships, job-shadowing and community service.
- Programs offer opportunities for students to build leadership skills, earn awards, and gain scholarships through co-curricular student organizations.
- Programs incorporate a service learning component where students can perform community service activities throughout the school year.
- Many programs enable students to earn college credit or apprenticeship hours.

- The on-site alternative school program, Program Alternative to Secondary School – PASS has students enrolled in academic courses along with career courses offered at MST thus lowering the drop-out rate and creating employable citizens.
- Students in the Construction Cluster build a home each year. There is a seventeen acre subdivision where the eighteen homes that have been built are located and will be used for further construction for 18-20 more years. This housing park is administrated by a non-profit foundation.

For our adult clients:

- The following programs are offered to adults: diploma- for high school completion, apprenticeship for electrical, plumbing and sheet metal, adult basic education, GED testing, ESOL, and enrichment.
- Current enrollment – HS diploma-296 students, apprenticeship-367, Adult Basic Ed (ABE) – 41 students, GED-60 clients a month, and 250 ESOL students. The enrichment course enrollments depend upon the offerings.
- Staff – 45 teachers and 3 supervisor/instructors.

Funds generated by the Manchester School of Technology:

- \$151, 413-Tuition of eight sending school districts for career and technical education programs. These funds are deposited directly into the General Fund.
- \$646,692-the Carl Perkins Grant for career and technical education.
- \$215,307-State Apprenticeship Grant for electrical and plumbing apprenticeships.
- \$252,191-Four Adult Education Grants – ABE, Diploma, Adult Education and Family Literacy, ESOL/Civics.

VOPAR (non-profit 501-3c corporation):

VOPAR was formed in 1984 to provide advice and support for career and technical education activities. Over the years, VOPAR has assisted in the development of projects and learning activities that include: house construction, hot-rod building, student organization support, equipment procurement and scholarships.

Manchester School of Technology Accomplishments:

- Funds generated by MST and its programs reduce the district's fiscal responsibility. Many of these funds are used to improve/expand programs, assist students in their learning, hire employees, purchase supplies and equipment, and maintain the physical plant and grounds.
- Nationally certified programs – Academy of Finance, Project Lead the Way (engineering) and soon, Automotive Technology NATEF certification.
- The Health Science program clinical component where students have the opportunity to learn skills in a structured worksite at hospitals, elder-care facilities and clinics.
- The graphics/printing program provides printing services to the school district at a reduced cost.
- The number of students from all levels continues to increase each year.

- In 2000 consultants for the Manchester Public school district considered MST as “the hidden pearl” of educational effectiveness, and in 2006 a Union Leader articles called our school “Ambassadors for Technology.”
- A newly piloted program for 8th grade students from Southside Junior High school will come for after-school enrichment classes in computer design and be mentored by our MST high school students. There are plans to add other area junior high schools next year.
- The emphasis of integrating technology into the learning by teachers and students. There is a high emphasis of technology training in our professional development sessions. The staff uses Grade-Quick, PowerPoint and web-based projects. As of January, 2006 all communications are through email as well as the monthly calendar online.
- The LOTI survey has a high percentage of MST teachers using technology as learner-based approach, 94% considering technology as instructional relevant, and 81% of faculty using computers daily as part of their job.
- The successful management of the non-profit foundation and subdivision.
- **Adult Program**
 - 52 adults were awarded high school diplomas
 - 70 adults earned high school credits toward matriculation of high school credits
 - Toward postsecondary programs
 - 49 plumbing apprentices became eligible to take the journeyman’s exam
 - 27 electrical apprentices became eligible to take the journeyman’s exam
 - 208 adults received GED’s
 - 9 adults became U.S. citizens
 - 8 adults registered to vote